

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

KINGSWOOD

Urban District Council

FOR THE

YEAR 1903.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
TO THE
KINGSWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
Of the Sanitary State of the District under their control,
FOR THE YEAR 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary State of the Kingswood Urban District for the year ended December 31st, 1903.

General Features.

I have nothing to add to what I have stated on former occasions as to the general features of the District, save only that the efforts which were made to get Bristol to include us in their extension scheme having fallen through, there is now no likelihood of any change for some years.

General Health.

There is no alteration in the occupation of the inhabitants—no fresh industry has been introduced. One additional boot factory has been built. The general standard of cleanliness is better since the establishment of House to House Refuse. ^{collection of} The health of the District would have been very favourable had it not been for the Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria which were prevalent throughout the year, 240 cases were recorded of these diseases. No change has taken place in the staple trade of the District—the making of boots—although fewer out-workers work in their houses: yet I regret to state there are still a considerable number of houses which have no workshop attached. This necessitates the work being done in the kitchen, where the food is cooked, and where, should any member of the family be ill, they are generally nursed.

Rainfall.

The rainfall, which has been the heaviest for 100 years past, and the absence of sunshine throughout the most part of the year, although causing a great amount of serious illness, does not appear to have raised the mortality. To this may be attributed the fact that influenza has not disappeared from the district throughout the year. The type has, however, been very mild, only one death was caused by it, and this was a person over 65 years of age. On the other hand, owing to very little warm and no hot dry weather, we had no visitation of the usual dreaded autumnal diarrhœa: and this accounts in a great measure for our very low rate of infantile mortality. The constant flushing of the drains, too, has been instrumental in all probability in keeping away disease—especially typhoid.

Subdivision.

I have been asked by the Local Government Board to make subdivisions of the District. I find this is impossible, unless I get the information from the Registrar, giving me much fuller particulars than I get at present. Many of our roads are in two or more wards, portions of Hanham Road, for instance, are in four different wards.

Sewage and Drainage.

The system which was approved of, and which I named in my last Annual Report as being about to be started, was that referred to as Section B,—the drainage of Kingswood proper, Moravian Road, Potterswood, Hanham Road, Court Road, Foot's Hill, Hanham, and Jefferies Hill—and has its outfall works at Conham. The work was begun in February last, and now the system has been almost completed, with the exception of the outfall works, which I anticipate will not be finished for another three months. A landslip on two occasions has retarded the completion of this latter portion of the work. I hope that before the end of the present year most of the houses will be connected up.

Section A referred to in my last Annual Report as being in obedience, owing to objections that certain houses situate in Deanery Road could not be drained by it—their level being lower than the level of the proposed outfall works—fell through.

Now Mr. Saise is preparing a plan to be submitted to the Local Government Board for the acquisition of land for outfall works outside our district. These works are proposed to be carried outside our district a distance of about a quarter of a mile to the low-lying land near Warnley Tower Pond, which is situated in the Warnley Rural District area. The estimated cost of this contemplated system, which will take in Hopewell Hill, New Cheltenham, Warnley Hill, and Warnley, including Deanery Road, is £11,000. I may say that a sewer has been already laid at Hopewell Hill, and also at the lower portion of Church Road.

Scavenging.

The house to house removal of refuse I mentioned as having been started last year has been continued: and I consider it has been a great assistance in checking the spread of disease. It materially assists the occupants in the more crowded portion of the District in keeping their back premises in a more sanitary condition.

Water.

The West Gloucester Water Co. supply is now laid on to nearly all the houses in the District—isolated houses which are at a distance from the mains being the only exceptions—and has been ample to meet all requirements. 55 additional houses have been connected up during the year. Three samples of water were analysed, and I found they were fit for drinking purposes.

Food.

In May, a man brought me a portion of ham, and said that his children had been sick after eating it. I did not consider it wholesome, and I and Mr. Waithman visited the shop where it was bought, and took possession of all that remained of it. We took it to a Justice of the Peace, and he advised us to send it to the County Analyst, which we did at once, and his report confirmed our suspicions. No other sample of any kind was brought under my notice.

Overcrowding.

The case of overcrowding which I reported in February at Jubilee Road, Soundwell, was remedied by the people moving into a larger house, as advised by me and the Sanitary Inspector.

Factories, Bakehouses, Dairies and Slaughter-houses.

All have been visited, and action taken where necessary. The advice given by me has invariably been acted upon, and I am pleased to be able to report favourably on all.

New Factory and Workshop Act.

Mr. Waithman has devoted a great deal of time and energy to the working of the New Factory and Workshop Act, and in a District like ours where we have so many workshops it has called for a great amount of attention, and I consider that he has done his work in a very satisfactory manner. The ventilation and construction has been improved in many of them, where his suggestions have been carried out. Some houses still lack a workshop. I should be glad to see this remedied, as in these cases the work is done in the house, and militates against the general good health of the occupants. The w.c. accommodation at some of the factories still leaves much to be desired. At present it is impossible to carry out any system of flushing, as the cesspools do not permit of this; and, further, the subsoil being for the most part clay, the water has no chance to percolate; but I trust that when all are connected up with the general sewer we shall have a vast improvement in this respect.

I am glad to say we have no underground bakehouses in our district.

Mortality.

The number of deaths registered during the year from all causes was 166. Estimating the population at 12,361, this gives a death-rate of 13.4 per 1,000 of the population. This is an improvement on last year's death-rate, which was 14.4, also on the average for the previous ten years, which was 14.3. The number of deaths under one year was 34, giving an infantile death-rate of 88.5 per 1,000 births registered. This exceedingly low rate is unprecedented in our infantile mortality returns. Last year it was 141.1, and the average for the previous ten years was 143.5. I have already commented on this in my notes on General Health.

Births.

384 births were registered during the year (190 males, 194 females), giving a rate of 31 per 1,000 of the population, and being 218 in excess of the deaths.

Zymotic Diseases requiring Notification.

During the year 245 cases were notified, with the result of 18 deaths. This is a great increase upon last year, when 173 cases were notified, causing 14 deaths. The actual increase is in the number of scarlet fever cases, which amount to 188, with 9 deaths, as against 76 for last year, with 1 death. So you see that the scarlet fever cases were this year of a more severe type, speaking generally. Last year I commented on the general mildness of the cases, and I had several scarlet fever cases with diphtheritic throats. 76 of the cases occurred in the first half of the year, and 122 in the last half year. 39 cases were notified in September—the largest number in any one month; and the least number notified was in January and April, which was 8 each. The zymotic death-rate for the year was 1.4 per 1,000 of the population. In consequence of the number of infectious cases, you asked me in August to make suggestions to prevent the spread of the scarlet fever cases in the district, and my suggestions are embodied in my Special Report of August 26th.

Again, in October, you asked me to make out an estimate for erecting and maintaining an Isolation Hospital. This I furnished, but the matter is still in obedience.

Smallpox.

No case reported.

Cholera.

No case reported.

Diphtheria and Membranous Group.

52 cases were notified, causing 7 deaths. Laryngeal form caused 3 out of the 7 deaths, and several cases had scarlet fever combined. The number of cases is below that of last year, when 75 were recorded. All severe cases had antitoxin used. Swabs were taken from the throats of doubtful cases for bacteriological examination; and printed notice of each infectious disease, with penalties for non-compliance with the instructions, were given to each; and disinfectants supplied in every case. And the Inspector made extra surprise visits where he had a doubt that the rules and instructions were not being complied with; but, in a working-class district such as this, we have great difficulty in making the heads of families realise what isolation is. They often say to me that all these precautions were not taken years ago, and why now? I am frequently spoken to in this way. The schools, where most of the cases arose, were frequently inspected and disinfectants used, and in the holidays the schools were thoroughly fumigated. It seems, however, very difficult to get rid of it out of the district; but I have noticed that during the holidays the disease diminished considerably. Great difficulty is experienced in some cases to clear the throat from diphtheria bacilli; in some it clings to them for months, and although the child may look in perfectly good health, and to all intents free from disease, yet it may infect other children when brought in close proximity, such as at school; and the difficulty of getting the parents to believe that the case may infect others lends to the difficulty of stamping out the disease. The laryngeal form to which I have referred as having caused three of the deaths, often proves fatal, particularly if a medical man is not sent for in the early stage. The schools attacked by the disease were, for most part, the same as last year, viz., Hanham Wesleyan and Kingswood Wesleyan.

Scarlet Fever.

The heaviest record of this disease, as regards the number of cases, we have ever had, although some previous records have been of a more malignant type. It was prevalent throughout the whole year. The only year in which we came near this year's figures was in 1892, when 148 cases, with 9 deaths, were recorded. We had some cases of the very mild type referred to last year, in which the child felt out of sorts for a couple of days, and the parents, being somewhat unobservant, noticed nothing beyond a slight rash until desquamation took place. These are the cases which are really answerable for the most part of the spread of the disease. An Isolation Hospital would have been invaluable in the early stages, when the number of cases was small, but when it assumed an epidemic form it would be impossible to stamp it out, even with the aid of isolation, for some considerable time. The larger number of cases occurred among children who attended the Wesleyan School at Kingswood and the Wesleyan School at Hanham; but we had cases from all the schools in the district.

Enteric Fever.

We had but one case reported during the year, and that was in January. It proved fatal.

This is a very much more satisfactory state than has been the case for five years. In all probability the cause of this one case was eating infected cockles. Last year 17 cases were reported, with 3 deaths.

Erysipelas.

Two cases were notified, but no death occurred.

Typhus Fever.

No case reported.

Relapsing Fever.

No case reported.

Continued Fever.

No case reported.

Puerperal Fever.

Two cases reported ; one death occurred.

Plague.

No case reported.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES NOT REQUIRING NOTIFICATION.**Measles.**

We do not appear to have had many cases of this disease. Those we had were in the first half of the year, causing only one death. Last year the disease was prevalent, and caused 9 deaths.

Whooping Cough.

This disease caused 2 deaths. Last year 6 cases proved fatal.

Influenza.

This disease, although prevalent throughout the year, was of a mild type, and caused 1 death (over 65 years). Although this disease came in a mild form, still it often undermines the constitution, and sets other diseases going in the system.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery.

Under this head we so frequently have a large infantile death-rate. This year we had only 2 deaths—both infants under one year. No doubt the absence of warm and dry weather prevented the disease from gaining ground.

Rheumatic Fever.

Two deaths were caused by this disease.

Phthisis.

This disease, I am glad to say, caused only 8 deaths, and they were all over 15 years. Last year 17 deaths were recorded. This disease always preponderates in the low-lying portions of the district, especially Hanham.

Cancer.

The number of deaths from this disease was 10—all over 25 years of age. Only five deaths were reported last year.

Bronchitis.

15 deaths resulted from this disease, 7 of which were persons over 65 years of age. Last year 22 deaths were caused by it.

Pneumonia.

This disease caused 9 deaths.

Pleurisy.

No death reported.

Cardiac Diseases.

19 deaths were caused by these.

Suicides.

No case occurred during the year.

Debility from Premature Birth.

Under this heading there were 7 deaths.

Accidents

Caused 4 deaths.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Very little has been done during the year as regards the securing of an Isolation Hospital.

In my last annual report I mentioned that the Medical Officer of Health to the Warmley Rural District Council and myself met and stated our views as regards the requirements of a conjoint hospital. Since then I have visited two sites and drawn up a report, as requested by the Council, of the probable cost of erecting and maintaining a hospital of our own in the district. I should like to repeat my statement of last year concerning the great necessity of securing an Isolation Hospital of our own, or in conjunction with any neighbouring Sanitary Authority.

In the event of no arrangement being made with any neighbouring Sanitary Authority, may I suggest that the Council rent a couple of isolated cottages to use as a temporary Isolation Hospital, to which we could remove the most urgent of our scarlet fever and diphtheria cases. This would materially assist in diminishing the number of cases; and I feel sure that, after we have taken this step, you will observe the benefit in a very few weeks. Of course, it is understood I am only advising this as a temporary measure until we can provide an efficient permanent Isolation Hospital.

I subjoin tabulated statements—I., II., III., IV.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. J. PERROTT.

February 24th, 1904.

TABLE 1.
FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED.			
		Number	Rate	UNDER 1 YEAR.		AT ALL AGES.	
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births Registered	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1893	10,400	360	34·6	37	102·7	148	14·2
1894	10,600	393	37	71	180·7	173	16·3
1895	10,800	368	34	56	152·1	156	14·4
1896	11,000	359	32·6	58	161·5	176	16
1897	11,200	343	30·6	48	145·7	138	12·3
1898	11,400	375	32·9	50	133·3	150	13·1
1899	11,600	378	32·5	56	148·1	168	14·4
1900	11,800	388	32·8	50	128·8	181	15·3
1901	11,961	367	30·6	52	141·7	154	12·8
1902	12,161	326	26·8	46	141·1	176	14·4
Averages for Years 1893-1902	11,292	365·7	32·4	52·4	143·5	162	14·3
1903	12,361	384	31	34	88·5	166	13·4

Area of District in Acres	} 2,500	Total Population at all ages	...	...	12,361
		Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	2,517
		Average Number of Persons per house	...	...	4·9

TABLE II.

YEAR.	Population estim'd to m'dle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
	A	B	C.	D.
1893	10,400	360	148	37
1894	10,600	393	173	71
1895	10,800	368	156	56
1896	11,000	359	176	58
1897	11,200	343	138	48
1898	11,400	375	150	50
1899	11,600	378	168	56
1900	11,800	388	181	50
1901	11,961	367	154	52
1902	12,161	326	176	46
Averages of Years 1893-1902	11,292	365.7	162	52.4
1903	12,361	384	162	34

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1903.

CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE		At All Ages	AT AGES					
			Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'rds
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	49	1	16	30	1	1	...
Membranous Croup ...	...	3	1	2	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	188	1	61	110	12	4	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS...	...	245	3	79	140	14	9	...

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages, at Death during 1903.

CAUSES.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	9	...	3	6	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup) ...	7	...	5	2	...	...	...
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever - Enteric ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
{ Other contd. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	9	4	3	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ...	3	...	...	1	...	2	...
Phthisis ...	8	...	...	...	1	7	...
Other Tubercular Diseases } ...	6	2	2	1	1	...	...
Cancer (malignant disease) } ...	10	...	...	...	...	8	2
Bronchitis ...	15	1	3	...	...	4	7
Pneumonia ...	9	5	2	...	...	...	2
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs } ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of Liver) } ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Venereal Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition) ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Disease ...	19	1	...	1	...	13	4
Accidents ...	4	...	...	1	1	2	...
Suicides ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever ...	3	...	...	1	...	2	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	9	...	...	...	1	4	4
All other causes ...	38	10	6	1	3	4	14
Totals ...	166	34	26	14	7	49	36

KINGSWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

AND

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901, YEAR 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my first Annual Report of work done in my department during the year 1903, together with a report on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

General.

Referring, in the first place, to the general sanitary state of the district, I can say without hesitation that considerable improvement has been made during the year. The number of complaints has gradually decreased. Several long-standing nuisances have been successfully abated; and the refuse collecting cart is now taken more advantage of.

House Drainage.

During the year I have inspected, tested and certified for the drainage and sanitary arrangements of 45 newly-erected houses, and, in addition, many important improvements have been made in the drainage of existing houses.

I am glad to say the importance of proper ventilation, and the construction of Inspection and Disconnecting Chambers, is being more generally recognised and carried into effect, and I may say that I shall give my special attention in this respect to each of the numerous connections which will, in all probability, be made during 1904.

New Sewer.

The laying of the new sewer in Hopewell Hill supplies the much-needed means of properly draining that district, and as the work of "connecting up" where most urgently needed is now in hand, I hope that the district will soon be entirely rid of what has been an eyesore, as well as the cause of so much complaint.

House Refuse.

In March last, I advised the Council that the "tip" then used for house refuse was, for several reasons, decidedly unsuitable, as a result of which another "tip" was procured. This, I may say, is admirably suited for the purpose, and is quite satisfactory from a sanitary standpoint.

Infectious Disease.

I regret to report that the number of Infectious cases attended to is in excess of last year, amounting to a total number of 285. Scarlet fever, however, is responsible for almost of that number; but, as that disease was so prevalent almost throughout the country, the increase is somewhat accounted for.

Hospital.

I sincerely trust that during the ensuing year steps will be taken to provide some means of "Isolation," as such means, if only temporary, are greatly needed, as, in the event of an outbreak of any serious epidemic, proper facilities with which to deal with it are practically "nil."

Slaughter Houses.

During the year I have re-registered, and regularly inspected, the Slaughter Houses in the district, and I am able to report them satisfactory, so far as circumstances and conditions permit. Very few, however, are suitably situated, and a Public Slaughter House would be exceedingly beneficial to the district, from a sanitary point of view. There are 23 registered houses in the district.

Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk Shops.

After inspecting these during the early part of the year, I drew the attention of the Council to the fact that the regulations drawn up by them, in accordance with the Local Government Board Order of 1888, were not observed. A resolution was then passed, authorising me to "enforce observance of the regulations." I drew up and served seven notices in respect to lime-washing, ventilation and enlargement of premises, and in each case saw that the necessary work was done.

The number of premises on the Register is 29.

Bakehouses.

These have been regularly inspected by me during the year, and are, generally speaking, very satisfactory, attention being paid to proper periodical lime-washing and to general cleanliness.

In two cases only was any notice served under the Bakehouse Act, the necessary work in each case being done.

There are 37 Bakehouses registered.

Sanitary Appliances.

Several Sanitary Appliances, viz., drain tester, drain clearing rods, disinfectant sprayer, etc., have been purchased during the year, each of which has been of great service.

Disinfectants, etc.

Disinfectants have been supplied in each of the infectious cases; also, information as to the treatment of the disease, etc. In each case, also, the house has been fumigated with sulphur, after the recovery of the patient. The schools, also, at both Hanham and Kingswood have periodically been disinfected and sprayed.

Miscellaneous.

In May last, I seized a ham, which was on sale, in Hanham, and, after sending it to the County Analyst, received a report from him to the effect that it was unfit for human food. No legal proceedings, however, were taken in the matter.

I have taken three samples of water during the year, each of which, on analysis, was found to be satisfactory.

Of the 117 notices served during the year, summonses were issued in two cases only, and in every case the work required was done.

Following is a classified summary of work done during 1903 :—

No. Complaints Received	-	-	-	122
„ Houses, Premises, etc. inspected	-	-	-	247
„ Notices issued (Informal)	-	-	-	112
„ „ „ (Legal)	-	-	-	5
„ Houses, Premises, etc. cleansed, repaired, etc.				16
„ „ Disinfected after infectious illness	-			285
„ House Drains tested and certified for	-			51
„ „ „ relaid	-	-	-	5
„ „ disconnected from sewer	-			7
„ „ blocked and remedied	-	-	-	24
„ Inspection Chambers constructed	-	-	-	27
„ Defective Traps, etc., replaced with new	-			16
„ Flushing Tanks provided	-	-	-	46
„ New W.C.s provided	-	-	-	18
„ „ Sinks provided	-	-	-	11
„ Other Nuisances abated :—				
Overcrowding	-	-	-	4
Cesspools overflowing	-	-	-	51
Gutter Courses polluted	-	-	-	73
Sanitary Arrangements foul	-	-	-	27
Offensive Accumulations	-	-	-	12
Cowsheds limewashed, etc.	-	-	-	9
Bakehouses ventilated	-	-	-	2
Slaughter Houses limewashed, etc.	-			4

Out-Workers.

The list of out-workers, as submitted from Kingswood and Bristol factories, gives a total number on the Register of 1,150. As, however, many of these are on the register of workshops, I estimate that I have inspected over 1,000, under one heading or the other. The foregoing remarks as to work done in the “kitchen,” applies in the case of out-workers.

I have paid special attention in the case of out-workers for textile factories, to infectious disease in the home, and in each case the work has been stopped, or the worker kept from the factory.

Following is a list of factories, workshops and out-workers, as shewn on the Register :—

FACTORIES.	WORKSHOPS.	OUT-WORKERS.	
		Bristol Factories.	Kingswood Factories.
29	361	830	321

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHAS. H. WAITHMAN, A.S.I.,

Inspector, and

Inspector under Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Factories.

The administration of this Act has been carried out by me during the year. I have periodically inspected the factories throughout the district, as a result of which 25 notices have been served, chiefly in respect of defective and insanitary conveniences.

The factories are, generally speaking, very satisfactory, and in most of the cases where notices have been served the cause of complaint has been against the employees more than against the employer. During the early part of the year I made an inspection of several factories, in company with His Majesty's Inspector, and he agreed at the time that the most frequent complaints would be remedied by the new sewage scheme.

Workshops.

Out of 361 workshops registered I have inspected 298, and of these 61 were unsatisfactory from one cause or another, notices being served in each case, 17 being in respect of ventilation and various structural defects, the remainder being for lime-washing and general cleaning.

I regret the number of workers who have to use the "kitchen" as a workshop, and whenever possible I have stopped this. There are, however, a great number still, who have, and can obtain no other work place.